

TRIUMPH OF SURGERY, THE—Jurgen Thorwald. Translated by Richard and Clara Winston. Pantheon Books, Inc., 333 Sixth Avenue, New York 14, N. Y., 1960. 454 pages, \$6.50.

This fascinating and vivid account of the main features in the history of surgery during the 19th and early part of the 20th century, makes it enjoyable reading, both to the layman and the physician. The valuable physiological and pathological background is given along with the struggles and frustrations of our pioneers.

Speaking through a figurative Doctor Hartmann, as in his earlier "The Century of the Surgeon," the author continues his familiarity with these characters, thereby making the presentation of authentic material most pleasant.

The narrative consumes some 430 pages which would have been considerably lengthened if all the episodes like localization of brain tumors, and newer discoveries in thoracic and cardiac surgery had been included. These, however, will come under contemporary history and are well known.

The rarely recorded and tragic story of topical, local and spinal anesthesia, the tragedy of the Crown Prince Frederick the III's last illness and the final solution of thyroid and gall bladder surgery illustrate some of the intriguing accounts.

The author has again presented a readable authentic and vivid account of surgery that will fascinate, not only the older physicians, but offers the student and the young physician many stimulating examples.

F. L. REICHERT, M.D.

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VIRUS VIRULENCE AND PATHOGENICITY—Ciba Foundation Study Group No. 4.—G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Cecilia M. O'Connor, B.Sc., editors for Ciba Foundation. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1960. 114 pages, 13 illustrations, \$2.50.

For many physicians the justification for studying viral infection is illness or death resulting from such infection in man. These phenomena surely represent some aspects of viral virulence and pathogenicity, but in broader terms virulence may be described as "an epiphenomenon of the processes by which the virus survives in nature in relation to the full totality of the environment." A group of distinguished British, Dutch and American investigators met in June 1959 to discuss the complexities of pathogenicity and virulence, with particular reference to influenza viruses. Under the chairmanship of Sir MacFarlane Burnet this group attempted to define what interactions between parasite and host were responsible for manifestations of pathogenicity and to what extent the virulence of the virus, or the susceptibility of the host could be defined quantitatively. The stimulating discussions are reproduced verbatim. While some of the technical points in the debate are of principal interest to medical virologists the general physician will also find much elegant reasoning and many illuminating facts.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

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CHRISTOPHER'S TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY—Seventh Edition—Edited by Loyal Davis, M.D., Chairman of the Dept. of Surgery, Northwestern University Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1960. 1551 pages, \$17.00.

This is a seventh edition of a standard Textbook of Surgery, written initially by Christopher and edited now by Loyal Davis. In the reviewer's opinion there are three excellent Textbooks of Surgery at the present time. These are:

Moseley's Textbook of Surgery; Allen, Harkins, Moyer, and Rhoads' Surgery—Principles and Practice, and Christopher's Textbook of Surgery. All of these textbooks have been revised within the past year and all are excellent texts.

The Moseley text has the advantage of being somewhat shorter and having better illustrations than the other two. It is a little easier for a student in the first stages of surgery to acquire the basic principles of surgery. However, it is not nearly so detailed nor as applicable in the long run as Christopher's Textbook of Surgery or the textbook by Allen, Harkins, Moyer and Rhoads on Surgery—Principles and Practice.

Christopher's Textbook of Surgery covers in a very systematic way all of the aspects of general surgery ranging from infections, fluid and electrolyte problems, shock, trauma, to the latest advances in the field of cardiovascular surgery. I think it is an excellent text and one that can be recommended strongly to a student, particularly if he is interested in the long run in going into the field of surgery. It is written in an easily comprehensible style. Despite the fact that there is extensive multiple authorship, the overlap of material presented is not too great.

The only criticism that one can level at the book is its somewhat formidable length. However, the amount of material covered is such that it would be hard to do justice to the material in a shorter volume. This book is recommended strongly to students interested in general surgery.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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EXPERIMENTAL SURGERY—Including Surgical Physiology—Fourth Edition—By J. Markowitz, M.B.E., M.B. (Tor.), Ph.D., M.S. in Exp. Surg. (Minn.); Professor of Physiology, University of Toronto; Visiting Professor of Physiology, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ont.; J. Archibald, D.V.M. M.V.Sc., Dr. Med. Vet. (Giessen), M.R.C.V.S., Professor and Head of the Division of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ont.; and H. G. Downie, D.V.M., M.S. (Cornell) M.V.Sc., Professor and Head, Department of Physiological Sciences Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ont. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md., 1959. 931 pages, \$12.50.

Experimental Surgery by Markowitz has been truly a classic in the field. This book represents the fourth edition and it has been completely revised and improved. It contains a wealth of information which should be available to every surgical resident and to every surgeon interested in research. It will save one a great deal of time and effort in familiarizing himself with the previous experimental surgery which has been done in an area, if he will avail himself of the contents of this book and also the excellent reference lists which follow each section.

The present book has been brought up to date and includes fairly adequate discussions of such problems as cardiovascular surgery, hypothermia and transplantation of tissues. Perhaps the only area that isn't adequately covered is what might be termed surgical immunology and some of the information related to germ-free animals could be extended in future editions.

The bibliographies at the end of each chapter are not only ample, but contain, in my opinion, the outstanding references to work that has been done in the various fields discussed. This book can be highly recommended to anyone interested in surgical research, to surgical residents who are going to spend some time in research laboratories, and to surgeons in practice who like to dream and think in terms of the experimental approach employing surgery as a tool for enhancing our knowledge of fundamental biology.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.